



newsletter

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON

December 17, 1986

Volume 1; No. 10

healthy holidays! SIGNS OF HOPE

safer sex works!

A recent study by Dr. Barbara Romanowski, Director of Alberta's Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Agency, suggests that safer sex practiced by gay men has been working to prevent AIDS. The report documents the rate of sexually transmitted diseases in Alberta.

The report shows a dramatic - more than sixty percent - drop in sexually transmitted diseases in the homosexual population of Alberta. Rectal gonorrhea, which is transmitted in the same manner as HIV, the virus which can cause AIDS, has declined by almost eighty per cent among Edmonton's gay population since 1980.

This contrasts sharply with statistics both for Calgary's gay population (only a fourteen per cent drop in rectal gonorrhea) and Alberta's heterosexual population (with a rising rate of sexually transmitted diseases).

More SAFER SEX on page two.

AZT at last!

According to Barbara Romanowski, Director of Sexually Transmitted Disease Control for Alberta, AZT is now available to Albertans. The introduction of the drug is directed by Dr. John Gill of Calgary. To be eligible for AZT people with AIDS must have had at least one bout of P.C.P. (pneumocystis carinii pneumonia), and agree to weekly blood work and urine analysis.

As well, no other drugs, not even aspirin, are allowed for several weeks before beginning the AZT, and for several weeks after. If needed, doctors will slowly reintroduce the drugs.

More AZT on page two.

HIV vaccine?

The Edmonton Journal reported on December 11th, that testing of a possible vaccine against HIV, the virus which can cause AIDS, has begun on animals and may begin sometime in 1987 on human subjects. This news was announced by a representative of the World Health Organization in Geneva. Stay tuned for further news on this.

ARC SUPPORT GROUP

SEE PAGE TWO FOR MORE DETAILS

safer sex

Unfortunately, safer sex will not show much of an effect on the rate of AIDS acquisition for some time. Given the long incubation period for the HIV, the number of persons with AIDS will continue to grow for at least another five years. But this study can give Edmonton's gay community hope that with the continued practice of safer sex, the progress of this disease will someday will be stopped.

AZT

The above requirement may be frightening to some PWA and they should carefully consult their doctor.

A Dose-Ranging Study of AZT will be undertaken in the new year in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver to test for toxicity and side effects. The protocols for these tests have yet to be announced. There will be no "blind test placebo" testing as in the early studies in the U.S. It is understood that the protocol maybe extended to individuals with AIDS-Related Complex ARC in January or February.

" Our congratulations go to the Federal Health Ministry, the Vancouver AIDS care team of doctors and the PWA Coalition for helping to bring AZT to Canada."

*Adapted and parts reprinted from the Vancouver PWA Coalition's December Newsletter.

LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

All of us have by now been touched by AIDS, but sadly, some have been affected in a profound way, those losing or having lost a lover, spouse, or family member to AIDS. The AIDS Network would like you to know that there is a group meeting regularly to help you through your loss. If you would like to meet with others for mutual support, please call Lorraine at the AIDS Network (429-AIDS) for meeting place and times.



ARC SUPPORT GROUP

Living with AIDS is certainly not easy, and living with ARC (AIDS-related complex) is just as complicated. The uncertainties are sometimes worse than the physical symptoms, especially, if you're all alone. That's why the AIDS Network is trying to get people with ARC together to support each other through the difficult times and to appreciate the good. The group will include an experienced facilitator and the first meeting will be soon, so if you do have ARC, please call Lorraine at the AIDS Network office (429-AIDS) for more information. People joined together can make a difference!

research funds

At a November 11 fundraiser held at the Roost, \$2,500.00 was raised by proceeds which was donated to the U of A Division for Infectious Diseases Research (funds raised are to be matched by the University), Special thanks to the staff, and of course, to all who attended.

Office Address:

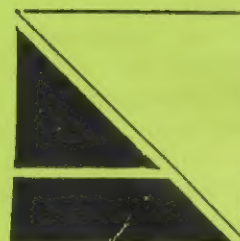
10233 - 98 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5J 0M7

Telephone Number:

Info Line: 429-AIDS
Business Line: 424-4767

Office Hours:

Monday and Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday to Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.





year end thanks

The staff of the AIDS NETWORK of EDMONTON SOCIETY wish to express our most profound thanks to the many institutions, firms and individuals who have helped us over the past year. A year that gave us many surprises, a few of them sad, but many delightful and above all, useful.

You will remember of course, 1986 was the year the office took shape and many individuals helped in various ways to pull it all together. The following institutions, firms and people deserve our thanks and appreciation:

The Clifford E. Lee Foundation
The Wild Rose Foundation
The Provincial and Federal Governments
The Roxy Theatre
Flashback
Boots and Saddle
The Roost
The Phoenix Theatre
Gay Alliance Towards Equality (G.A.T.E.)
U of A, Dept. of Health Services & Community Medicine
The Edmonton Board of Health
Edmonton Interagency Council on AIDS
AADAC
Friends of the Phoenix
The Edmonton Journal
The AIDS Vigil Organizing Committee
Metropolitan Community Church
Dignity
Lutherans Concerned
The City of Edmonton (Leasing & Property Management)
Chivers & Grechol, Barristers & Solicitors
Kirkpatrick & Associates
The S.T.D. Clinic
Endeavours Communications
Grant MacEwan College
(Volunteer Management)
M. Ritter, Barrister & Solicitor
Health Promotion Directorate (Western Region)



The following individuals have given generously of their time in the past month:

Roy Stubbe, Tony S, Bill Curtin, Terry Stannard, Marg Pullishy, Joan Crawford (Christine MacInnis), Kate Thompson, Boots & Saddles for the Grey Cup Benefit, The Roost for ongoing (Wednesday Night) support, and John Moi, O.F.M.

...and best
wishes to
all in 1987!

VOLUNTEERS

The community work that an organization like the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society needs to accomplish can only be achieved with the active assistance of volunteers.

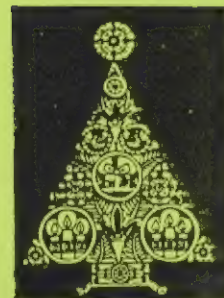
Volunteers are needed for the many projects that the AIDS Network is planning. If you have already volunteered and we have not yet contacted you, be assured that we still have your name and are gearing up for a number of January events. The following are areas in which we need volunteers:

PHONELINE WORKERS:

A training course is in the works for January for persons interested in answering requests for information by phone.

OTHER AREAS INCLUDE:

- Design
- duplicating
- typing
- providing transportation
- personal assistance
- information gathering
- fund-raising
- counselling (peer and professional)
- finances



Some volunteer positions are one-time tasks, others require a commitment of several months.

So if you've been looking for a way to help the community in this time of crisis, call the AIDS Network right away.

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society gratefully accepts monetary donations to help it in its mandate of information/ support/education in the fight against AIDS. If you would like to donate money to the NETWORK, please fill out the following form and return it to the AIDS NETWORK office, or give us a call at 424-4767.

Donations may be made to the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society to assist us in office costs, or to the Ross Armstrong Memorial Fund to be given to persons with AIDS or ARC who are experiencing financial need. The latter fund is administered by an independent panel. Anyone who considers themselves eligible is asked to submit a written request to the panel and may contact the Executive Director of the AIDS NETWORK to forward the request to the panel. The identity of the persons seeking or receiving awards is kept strictly confidential.

R. ARMSTRONG FUND UPDATE

* Receipts since Fund started in July, 1986 (71 contributions)	\$2,751.38
* Awards	<u>455.32</u>
Bank Balance-Dec.15, 1986	\$2,296.06

donations

DONATION FORM

I would like to assist the AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY in their task of helping to stop the spread of AIDS with the following donation:

\$10. \$20. \$50. \$100.

Other amount (please specify) _____

This donation I would like directed to:

- ☐ The AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON
- ☐ The ROSS ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL Fund

Please make cheques payable to:
THE AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

Please specify on your cheque which fund you wish to support.

The AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY is grateful for your generosity.

